

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
associating a delay with a request to transmit information determining at least one relative delay between at least two user equipment; and
transmitting a signal identifying a time at which information is permitted to be transmitted based on the relative delay.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a flow of information, comprising:
receiving a signal requesting to transmit information;
~~associating a delay with a request to transmit information~~ determining at least one relative delay between at least two user equipment;
determining a time at which the information is permitted to be transmitted based on the relative delay; and
transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted.

3. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:
transmitting a synchronizing signal, and wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted further comprises
transmitting a signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted.

4. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 3, wherein:
transmitting the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted further comprises transmitting over a shared channel the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted.
5. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted further comprises transmitting a signal identifying a frame in which information is permitted to be transmitted.
6. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein ~~associating a delay with a request to transmit information~~ determining at least one relative delay between at least two user equipment further comprises determining a propagation delay.
7. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein ~~associating a delay with a request to transmit information~~ determining at least one relative delay between at least two user equipment further comprises determining a processing delay.
8. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:
receiving the information at a first preselected time;
comparing the first preselected time with the identified time to determine the relative delay between at least two user equipment ~~delay associated with the request to transmit information.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a flow of information from a user to a base station, comprising:
- receiving a signal from the user requesting to transmit information;
- ~~associating a delay with a user~~ determining at least one relative delay between the user
and at least one other user;
- determining a time at which the user is to transmit the information to the base station,
- wherein the determined time is a function of the relative delay; and
- transmitting a signal to the user identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted.
10. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 9, further comprising:
- transmitting a synchronizing signal to the user, and wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises
- transmitting a signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is permitted to be transmitted.
11. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein:
- transmitting the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting over a shared channel the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is to be transmitted.

12. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a plurality of users, and wherein:
transmitting the synchronizing signal further comprises transmitting the synchronizing signal over a shared channel to each of the plurality of users; and
transmitting the signal identifying the time as a function of the synchronizing signal at which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting over the shared channel to the plurality of users a signal identifying a unique time, as a function of the synchronizing signal, at which information is to be transmitted.
13. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises transmitting a signal identifying a frame in which information is to be transmitted.
14. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein ~~associating a delay with a user~~ determining at least one relative delay between the user and at least one other user further comprises determining a propagation delay associated with signals delivered by the user.
15. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein ~~associating a delay with a user~~ determining at least one relative delay between the user and at least one other user further comprises determining a processing delay associated with signals delivered by the user.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
means for receiving a signal requesting to transmit information;
means for ~~associating a delay with a request to transmit information~~ determining at least one relative delay between at least two user equipment;
means for determining a time at which the information is permitted to be transmitted
based on the relative delay; and
means for transmitting a signal identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted.
17. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the flow of information between a user and a base station, comprising:
transmitting a signal from the user requesting permission from the base station to transmit information;
~~associating a delay with a user~~ determining at least one relative delay between the user and at least one other user;
determining a time at which the user is to transmit the information to the base station, wherein the determined time is a function of the relative delay; and
transmitting a signal to the user identifying the time at which information is permitted to be transmitted; and
transmitting the information from the user to the base station at the identified time.
18. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising:
receiving the information from the user at a first preselected time;

comparing the first preselected time with the identified time to determine the relative delay between the user and at least one other user delay associated with the user.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the flow of information between a user and a base station, comprising:
- receiving a synchronizing signal from the base station;
 - transmitting a signal from the user requesting permission from the base station to transmit information;
 - receiving a signal from the base station identifying a time relative to the synchronizing signal at which information is to be transmitted, the time being determined based on a relative delay between the user and at least one other user; and
 - transmitting the information from the user to the base station at the identified time.
20. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein:
- receiving a signal from the base station identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises receiving a signal from the base station identifying a substantially unique time at which information is to be transmitted.
21. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein:
- receiving a signal from the base station identifying the time at which information is to be transmitted further comprises receiving a signal from the base station identifying a substantially unique frame associated with the synchronizing signal during which information is to be transmitted.

22. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein:
- receiving a synchronizing signal from the base station further comprises receiving a synchronizing signal from the base station over a shared channel.